

Bureau of Land Management



Montana/Dakotas

A Report to the Public

Montana State Office



Bureau of Land Management

MONTANA/DAKOTAS BLM ACREAGE

Surface Acres

Montana	7,967,376
North Dakota	58,841
South Dakota	274,437
TOTAL	8,300,654

Subsurface Acres

Montana	37,789,542
North Dakota	5,614,146
South Dakota	3,776,199
TOTAL	47,179,887

for breakdown by county, and other links contained in this report, go to
<http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/info/newsroom/08annualreport.html>

WILDLIFE

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- 600 species of fish and wildlife
- 3,500 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 200,000 acres of waterfowl habitat having international importance

Threatened and Endangered Species

- 4 threatened and endangered mammals
- 3 threatened and endangered birds
- 2 threatened and endangered fish

Special Status Species

- Mammals - List updated in 2004
- Birds - List updated in 2004
- Fish - List updated in 2004
- Plants - List updated in 2005

Wild Horses

- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range covers 39,651 acres of BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service and private lands
- 170 adult horses and 27 foals are on the range; 95 adult horses +/- 10 percent is the appropriate management level (AML).
- 0 horses removed from the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range
- 48 horses/burros (non-Pryor horses) adopted in 2008
- 68 compliance checks completed
- 95 animals titled

LANDSCAPE

Rangeland Management

- 4,111 cattle/buffalo operators; 999,285 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 163 horse/burro operators; 4,657 AUMs authorized
- 206 sheep/goat operators; 33,771 AUMs authorized

Wilderness

- 36 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 447,327 acres
 - 173,499 acres in 15 areas recommended for wilderness designation (about .02% of the total BLM-managed land base in Montana/Dakotas)
 - 273,828 acres in 30 study areas not recommended for wilderness designation
- Three Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 4,376 acres to be studied during the land use planning process
- One 6,347-acre designated wilderness: the Bear Trap Canyon Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness (Montana's first and only designated BLM wilderness area)

Forestry

- 400,000 acres of commercial forest land
- 138,000 acres of non-commercial forest land
- 9,103,800 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts
- 3,254,000 board feet of timber offered by stewardship contracts
- 1,661 cords of fuel wood sold
- 256 Christmas trees sold

Forest Development

- 934 acres of site preparation
- 325 acres of site protection
- 885 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 599 acres of commercial thinning

Noxious Weed Management

FY2008:

- 130,569 acres of noxious weeds treated using integrated weed control techniques including chemical, physical, mechanical, biological weed control agents and domestic animals (sheep or goats)
- 266,554 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 63,898 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- More than one million biological control agents collected and distributed to 213 sites

To date:

- Biological weed control agents established on more than 235,000 acres
- 69 weed management areas established
- Interagency agreements for biological control in place with Agricultural Research Service and Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
- Cooperative agreements in place with four Montana State University researchers for biological control
- Cooperative agreements in place with 44 county weed districts
- Cooperation with and funding provided to Montana Education and Awareness Committee results in hundreds of public and agency contacts for weed education opportunities
- Close working relationships established with Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Weed Control Association, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service

Report to the Public

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- 1.3 million acres inventoried to date
- 10,362 cultural properties recorded to date

MINERALS

Solid Minerals

Montana

- 13 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 32,740 acres
- 32,210,690 tons of coal produced, generating \$42,164,456 in royalties

North Dakota

- 3 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 981 acres
- 3,451,258 tons of coal produced, generating \$994,005 in royalties

Locatable Minerals

- 1,926 new claims recorded
- 667 claims closed
- \$240,750 new claim maintenance fees received
- \$1,870,435 received for annual maintenance fees and annual assessment fees
- 2,129 claims covered by 561 small miner waivers
- 17,449 unpatented mining claims
- 99 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 217,531 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

for detailed statistics, go to www.blm.gov/lr2000

Fluid Minerals

Federal Oil and Gas Leases Issued in FY 2008

	Competitive		Noncompetitive		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	196	197,959	15	37,394	211	235,353
North Dakota	52	20,234	1	3	53	20,237
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	248	218,193	16	37,397	264	255,590

Federal Oil and Gas Leases in Effect as of 9/30/08

	Producing		Non-producing		Total	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Montana	1,440	779,511	2,728	3,526,738	4,168	4,306,249
North Dakota	683	359,407	876	469,478	1,559	828,885
South Dakota	75	34,727	92	100,754	167	135,481
TOTAL	2,198	1,173,645	3,696	4,096,970	5,894	5,270,615

Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 5 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 321,429,074 acres in 415 parcels offered
- 304,397,564 acres in 388 parcels leased
- \$51,449,601.50 bonus bids received

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Construction/Maintenance/Engineering

Condition Assessments performed on:

- 70 administrative sites
- 147 recreation sites
- 67,393 square feet of buildings
- 174 hazard class dams
- 21 bridges

Annual Maintenance performed on:

- 126,922 square feet of administrative site buildings
- 50,701 square feet of recreation site buildings
- 1,503 lane miles of road
- 873 recreation site assets
- 163 administrative sites assets
- 6 bridges
- 207 miles of trail

Deferred Maintenance performed on:

- 84 square feet of recreation site buildings
- 19,406 square feet of administrative site buildings
- 1 mile of trail
- 2 hazard class dams
- 2 lane miles of road
- 24 recreation sites assets
- 4 administrative site assets
- 3 bridges

Newly Constructed Assets:

- 3 miles of trail
- 20 recreation site assets
- 251 range improvements
- 3 miles of road

Other work completed:

- 212 facilities surveyed and designed
- 8 architectural and engineering task orders issued

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

Geographic Information Systems/Mapping Science

- Established a GIS Steering Committee and completed the development of the Geospatial Strategic Plan for Montana/Dakotas.
- Maintained digital data of various resources and land ownership for resource analysis.
- Completed data preparation and resource analysis for five resource management plans.
- Produced detailed maps for various management planning efforts and projects.
- Provided maps and digital data to other government and private entities.
- Provided visuals and analyses for public meetings and briefings.
- Provided mapping support for various programs and projects.
- 18 1:100,000 maps edited and revised for automation.

2008

- Maintained EZ Mapper and oil and gas mapping applications.
- Provided training on metadata, GPS, and GIS software and analysis.
- Continued deployment of the EGIS infrastructure, serving all data and software from central repository.
- Continued implementation of a centralized data repository.
- Developed and maintained oil and gas automated field map data in SDE.
- Provided support to the development of the national invasive species database.
- Provided completed oil and gas field maps and lease sale parcels on website.

Cadastral Survey

- 273 miles resurveyed
- 286 miles approved
- 465 survey monuments set
- 567 survey monuments approved
- 47 plats approved

Geographic Coordinated Data Base

- 240 townships collected
- 573 townships maintained

Volunteers

- 876 volunteers contributed 34,678 hours valued at \$676,567; the cost to MT/DKs BLM was \$67,923

Fire Management

- 86 wildfires on BLM lands burned about 14,654 acres. Of those, 36 were human-caused (3,744 acres) and 49 were lightning-caused (10,910 acres).
- The BLM took action on a total of 148 fires; of these, 85 were on lands under BLM protection (14,401 acres) and 63 were on lands where BLM assists through agreements (128,238 acres). ("Action" means either that initial attack resources responded or that dispatch was heavily involved.)
- Of the action fires, 53 were human-caused (32,534 acres) and 95 were lightning-caused (110,105 acres).
- A total of 85 fuels treatments were accomplished on 13,758 acres: 7,927 acres of prescribed burning; 5,081 acres of mechanical treatments; and 750 acres of chemical treatments.

Law Enforcement and Resource Protection

- Investigated incidents of destruction, vandalism, and/or theft of natural resources and government property.
- Investigated human-caused fires for both cost recovery and criminal prosecutions.
- Investigated damage of archaeological sites and removal of paleontological resources.
- Provided security on wildfires in Montana and aided in evacuations of threatened homes.
- Continued investigations into fraud related to the Oil & Gas and Hard Rock Mining programs.
- Worked collectively with other agencies to secure public lands along the northern border.
- Assisted in search and rescue operations and local law enforcement as requested.

- Assisted state wildlife agencies in preventing and detecting hunting and fishing violations.
- Augmented the field office law enforcement staffs during high-visitation periods.
- Provided special operation support to various other states.
- Conducted high-visibility patrols of the Fort Meade Recreation Area during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.
- Provided advice and assistance to BLM offices regarding public and employee safety during increased terrorism threat levels.

PLANNING & ACTIONS

Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordination

- 10 resource management plans (RMPs) cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
- 6 planning efforts in progress: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, Butte, Miles City, Malta, North & South Dakota, and Billings/Pompeys Pillar resource management plans
- 1 supplemental to the Montana Statewide Oil and Gas Final Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment of the Powder River and Billings resource management plans

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- 51 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Lands Casework

- 122 rights-of-way and amendments issued; 15 renewed
- 6 permits/leases issued; 20 renewed
- 375 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 1 Sec. 209 conveyance of federally owned mineral interest (private surface) patent for 1 acre
- 6 Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisitions for 5,153 acres
- 1 donation of land to U.S. for 7 acres
- 2 Reclamation Homestead patents issued for 272 acres
- 1 Forest Service withdrawal processed for 4,596 acres
- 3 BLM exchange patents issued for 14,326 acres

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Hazardous Materials Management

- Completed follow-up CASHE audits (internal environmental audit program) as scheduled by the CASHE audit team. (Every office gets a follow-up on a 3-year cycle.)
- Completed cultural and bat surveys for physical safety hazard abatement (including adit and shaft closures) associated with abandoned mine lands. Closed 10 hazardous openings with backfill or bat gates as appropriate.
- The Consent Decree for the BLM Natural Resource Damage Claim v. ARCO for damages to BLM lands in the Clark Fork River Superfund site was lodged. The claim was made following the provisions of the Superfund Act.
- Disposed of hazardous unused and waste products from the field offices and state office.
- Completed Environmental Site Assessments for Weatherman's Draw Land Donation, Square Butte Land Donation and Exchange, and others.
- Provided necessary hazmat training for staff statewide.

Montana/Dakotas

RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

In 2008, Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted more than 4 million visits and collected more than \$384,899 in recreation fees. These funds are used to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites.

Our top six recreational activities in 2008, listed from highest to lowest in participation, were:

- Interpretation, education and nature study
- Non-motorized travel (hiking, walking, snow shoeing, skiing, etc.)
- Camping and picnicking
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Off-highway vehicle travel

Montana/Dakotas BLM lands provide a diversity of settings:

8.3 million acres of varied landscapes and opportunities

- 2,500 miles of streams
- 60,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 36 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and 3 Section 202 WSA sites
- 32 boating access sites
- 19 Watchable Wildlife sites
- 5 Outstanding Natural Areas
- 5 Backcountry Byways (185 miles)
- 100+ miles of groomed snowmobile/cross country ski trails
- 400+ family camping units
- 15 day-use sites and 24 developed recreation sites
- 400+ undeveloped recreation sites
- 27 miles of mountain bike trails in the Blackfoot River Corridor
- Cabin rentals in Axolotl Lakes and the Garnet Ghost Town areas

National Monuments

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres)
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument (51 acres)

National Trails

- 310 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
- 13 miles of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail
- 10 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- 30 miles of the Garnet Winter Trail
- 9 miles of the Bear Trap Canyon Recreation Trail
- 12 miles of the Centennial Trail (South Dakota)

National Historic Landmarks

- Pompeys Pillar

Of Special Interest, our Public Lands offer:

- Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (149 miles)
- Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness (6,347 acres)
- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (about 38,000 acres)
- Two interpretive/educational centers and many interpretive wayside exhibits

Recreational Achievements and Events in 2008

- The Missouri Breaks Interpretative Center in Fort Benton signed an assistance agreement with the local River and Plains Society to share in fee collection and revenue to support all the museums in Fort Benton.

- The Butte Field Office completed all recreation maintenance backlog projects in developed and undeveloped campgrounds and hiking areas. In fiscal year 2008, these areas received approximately 1,357,000 visitors.
- The Dillon Field Office enacted a partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to assist with management of recreation permits on the Madison River. This year the FWP hired a river ranger to manage and collect on 187 new outfitter and guide permits.
- Volunteers installed trail signs and a kiosk on the Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Range.
- The Miles City Field Office acquired the Pumpkin Creek Ranch to promote better recreational access for the regional community.
- Major culverts were replaced in the campground area on the Fort Meade Scenic Backcountry Byway. Additionally, a new outdoor recreation planner and law enforcement officer were hired to manage this historic and recreational resource.
- The Dillon Field Office completed construction on the Red Mountain Campground and group use area just south of Bozeman as part of the BLM's effort to assist communities with resource and recreational demands in our fastest growing communities.
- The Missoula Field Office completed a major fuel reduction project at the historic mining town of Garnet. This interpretive site receives more than 32,000 visitors annually and benefits from a strong partnership with the Garnet Preservation Association.
- Hundreds of volunteers participated in several National Public Lands Day projects held across Montana and the Dakotas, working on projects such as trail construction, fence removal, historic structure repair, and recreation site cleanup.
- The Billings Field Office started charging fees for the Shepherd Ah Nei Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Site. These new fees provided the funding for paving the parking area and installing accessibility ramps for the restroom and parking lot.
- The North Dakota Field Office installed 12 interpretive signs on the Bur Oak Nature Trail at Schnell Recreation Area near Dickinson.
- The Butte Field Office began charging camping fees at the White Sandy Recreation Site, providing 30 additional developed campsites along the popular Chain of Lakes area near Helena. It also signed an agreement with FWP to share maintenance operations with the nearby FWP Black Sandy Beach campground.
- Members of the Back Country Horsemen and other community members continue to assist the Lewistown Field Office with maintaining the Limekiln Trail. Additionally, Northern Rocky Mountain Grotto volunteers monitor resource use in Crystal Cave.
- The BLM hosted seven fishing/boating events for local communities, including two in North Dakota and South Dakota regions managed by the BLM. More than 1,110 students, volunteers, teachers, community partners and public participants took part. These events were made possible with Challenge Cost Share grants and community partnership support.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Personnel

- 616 total employees: 468 permanent full-time; 69 temporary; 72 career seasonal/part-time; and 5 SCEP (student career educational program)

SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

Belle Fourche, South Dakota	\$1,101,799
Billings, Montana	\$17,218,979
Butte, Montana	\$3,995,971
Dickinson, North Dakota	\$2,124,048
Dillon, Montana	\$2,977,022
Fort Benton, Montana	\$1,285,999
Glasgow, Montana	\$772,083
Havre, Montana	\$874,816
Lewistown, Montana	\$4,992,289
Malta, Montana	\$1,403,342
Miles City, Montana	\$8,012,964
Missoula, Montana	\$2,404,236
Pompeys Pillar, Montana	\$213,710
Total	\$47,377,258
Total Budget	\$76,400,021

NORTH DAKOTA PILT

<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY08</i>	<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY08</i>
Adams	92	Mercer	16,869
Barnes	14,184	Morton	30,182
Benson	7,811	Mountrail	87,925
Billings	101,686	Nelson	62
Bottineau	233	Oliver	12
Bowman	12,663	Pierce	7,836
Burke	52	Ramsey	852
Burleigh	32,724	Ransom	83,584
Cavalier	3,103	Renville	510
Dickey	1,454	Richland	55,099
Divide	437	Rolette	243
Dunn	23,798	Sargent	2,734
Eddy	1,344	Sheridan	66,751
Emmons	72,149	Sioux	69,700
Golden Valley	27,362	Slope	42,844
Grand Forks	2,695	Stark	1,426
Grant	19,788	Steele	311
Griggs	3,822	Stutsman	20,634
Kidder	4,946	Towner	32
Logan	1,912	Walsh	1,063
McHenry	5,085	Ward	731
McIntosh	1,047	Wells	19,115
McKenzie	163,561	Williams	93,710
McLean	354,651	TOTAL	\$1,458,824

MONTANA PILT

<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY08</i>	<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY08</i>
Anaconda-Deer Lodge	\$461,516	Madison	858,553
Beaverhead	872,397	McCone	265,388
Big Horn	13,259	Meagher	195,382
Blaine	467,349	Mineral	205,550
Broadwater	587,225	Missoula	1,122,502
Butte-Silver Bow	489,629	Musselshell	173,043
Carbon	784,865	Park	1,339,982
Carter	190,275	Petroleum	72,759
Cascade	457,567	Phillips	440,672
Chouteau	311,363	Pondera	217,034
Custer	728,907	Powder River	190,341
Daniels	64	Powell	670,179
Dawson	20,467	Prairie	137,436
Fallon	37,088	Ravalli	2,336,096
Fergus	1,064,523	Richland	17,397
Flathead	2,162,372	Roosevelt	1,371
Gallatin	1,526,419	Rosebud	104,280
Garfield	190,954	Sanders	292,724
Glacier	908,621	Sheridan	570
Golden Valley	67,553	Stillwater	405,148
Granite	225,172	Sweet Grass	540,333
Hill	48,261	Teton	600,940
Jefferson	1,009,531	Toole	45,158
Judith Basin	272,473	Treasure	239
Lake	266,733	Valley	756,651
Lewis and Clark	2,216,723	Wheatland	138,622
Liberty	58,667	Wibaux	8,638
Lincoln	559,365	Yellowstone	171,902
		TOTAL	\$27,308,228

SOUTH DAKOTA PILT

<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY08</i>	<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY08</i>
Beadle	\$671	Jackson	243,729
Bon Homme	36,232	Jerauld	92
Brown	183	Jones	44,786
Brule	27,283	Lawrence	89,342
Buffalo	27,219	Lyman	221,938
Butte	367,117	Marshall	85
Campbell	50,002	McPherson	366
Charles Mix	59,206	Meade	95,971
Clark	220	Miner	83
Clay	25	Pennington	750,950
Codington	71	Perkins	250,782
Corson	150,657	Potter	36,500
Custer	298,217	Roberts	1,253
Day	479	Shannon	4,527
Dewey	180,324	Spink	1,690
Fall River	555,390	Stanley	246,770
Gregory	61,118	Sully	109,121
Haakon	9,149	Tripp	366
Hand	183	Walworth	44,786
Harding	178,533	Yankton	5,526
Hughes	80,418	Ziebach	4,010
Hyde	3,980	TOTAL	\$4,239,350

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*Caring for Our Natural Resources
and
Managing Lands for Public Needs*



AN ANNUAL REPORT



PUBLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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5001 Southgate Drive
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www.blm.gov/mt/st/en.html